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05/09/2012 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, May 9, 2012 @ 6:00 PM
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 6:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Wednesday, May 9, 2012.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Arlington Belmont Crew: Laura Rothman, Margaret deChicojay
Friends of Thorndike Off Leash: Sue Doctrow, Randy Drye, Joy, Molly Flueckiger and Anita Plinor

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the April 10, 2012 minutes, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

N/A

Arlington/Belmont Crew Program Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the concerns regarding access to the fenced in area. Mr. Connelly stated that after checking with Town Counsel, it was confirmed that, although the crew program uses the area for storage of its equipment, it is the property of the Town of Arlington and access cannot be denied. If the Town of Arlington leased the property to Arlington/Belmont Crew then it might be a different situation.

Members from Arlington/Belmont Crew were in attendance. They mentioned possibly running a week long crew program. Ms. Rothman stated that the program is not accepted as a varsity sport by either high school; it is treated as a non-profit club youth sport with its own charter.

Mr. Connelly met with the Friends of Spy Pond about the shed location. They were happy with where the new shed was located and did not mind it was not in the fenced area. The Commission felt that this was an acceptable location.

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer noticed two metal storage cabinets immediately adjacent to the fence (where gasoline is kept for boats). This raised concern and is in violation of the storage policy and agreements with the club. Gas should not be stored on town property per the fire department. One option would be to move them up to the back of the fence by the private property of the Arlington Motor Mart.

There was also a complaint received about violations of the “no wake zone” bylaw. Ms. Rothman stated that the rowers are aware of the by-law and are trying to keep the wake to a minimum. They are also trying to avoid the geese.

Mr. Connelly stated that the kayaks/canoes for the Recreation Canoe/Kayak Rentals will be stored in the fenced area in the back. Recreation seasonal staff will bring them out in the morning and return them at end of day. Mr. Connelly said there will be three employees with keys.

Ms. Mayer mentioned that there are “Arlington/Belmont Crew only” signs that should be taken down or replaced with a more generic “authorized users only” sign. Ms. Mayer also recommended that Arlington Recreation should help with the cost of the fencing for its summer use of the fenced area. Arlington/Belmont Crew will get Mr. Connelly a price for the months of June and July.

Friends of Thorndike OLRA

A-DOG has recruited residents to form a friends group for the OLRA, which is partnering with the Town to oversee the area. Ms. Sue Doctrow stated that people are very excited for the OLRA to open. Mr. Connelly stated the facility completion is behind by 2 weeks. Lights have been shipped, and landscaping complete. Stay-lok material on the path is loose but he was told by the manufacturer that it will harden up. Lights are on a timer until 9:00 PM. The rules will be noted as a draft until the Fall. Mr. Connelly stated that there will be a soft opening in a few weeks with a formal opening to follow.

Thompson/North Union Field Neighborhood Concerns

Mr. Connelly received an email regarding safety concerns at the Thompson Field area. One concern is that there is no signage indicating there is no trespassing after 9:00 PM. Mr. Connelly stated that there is a sign posted on the North Union side of the field. Mr. Connelly will have the DPW make up a similar sign for the Everett Street entrance. He will also make the Arlington Police Department aware of these issues.

Another concern is parking on Everett Street during games. Cars are parking on both sides of the street making it difficult for cars to go down the street. Mr. Connelly will forward a request to review the situation to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Capital Improvement Update

Wellington Tennis Courts – Mr. Connelly stated that Mr. Leonard, an abutter, believes it is not draining properly. Grass is not growing. Mr. Connelly will ask Andrew Leonard to put some crushed stone in that area. There are no issues with the lights.

North Union Basketball Court – Mr. Connelly stated that the court is complete with the exception of paint and looks great.

2013 Capital Request Review – Mr. Connelly stated that we received money for Florence Field/Playground. Work will attempt to be scheduled around the school year (in the Summer). It will be a challenge and a long process. Layout will be the biggest challenge.

Reservoir Boat Ramp – No report.

Buck Field Renovation – Mr. Connelly stated that there is a target opening date of May 19th. The Commission again stated that no lights should be used until the shields are in place.

Poets Corner Master Plan – No report.

Off Leash Dog Review Review and Draft 2012 Warrant Article for Afternoon Off Leash Hours

Mr. Connelly reported that the Selectmen recommended no action on the 2012 warrant article for afternoon hours and the proponents have decided not to pursue it this year.

Special Requests

Friends of Robbins Farm submitted their Spring/Summer/Fall requests.

- Baseball Night – 9/29/12 – No police detail.
- Park Clean up – 11/3/12
- Field Day – 10/20/12
- Kite Flying – 4/28/12
- Movie Night – 8/25/12 – No police detail.
- Slide Opening – 5/12/12
- Live Concert – 7/19/12
- July 4th Celebration – 7/4/12 – police detail.

A request was received from the Carp Fishing School at Spy Pond Park – 6/23/12 and 6/26/12

Shaira Ali Road Race and Memorial Request. Mr. Connelly received an email asking for permission for a Memorial Road Race to end at Menotomy Rocks Park. All members of the Commission agreed that there should be nothing placed in the pond. A formal request should be submitted by an adult.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve requests, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 4-0.

Rink and Recreation Update

N/A

Committee Updates:

Portable Restrooms – N/A
Friends of Parks – N/A
Skateboard Park – N/A
Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

Magnolia Playground – Mr. Connelly looked at the edging in the sand area. Mr. Leonard drew up a sketch. Sacca will price. However, there is no available funding to do the work.

Thorndike Field – Ms. Rothenberg noticed trash in the parking lot (old lacrosse nets, lattice work piled into a parking space at the entrance). Mr. Connelly will have it removed.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation